

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 1-19 with the following amended paragraph:

In this embodiment, screw region 12 includes a conically-shaped portion with a tip 22 at one of its ends for penetrating the skull to initiate drilling. Other embodiments may include a screw region having other configurations, such as a cylindrically-shaped portion adjacent a conically-shaped portion with a tip. Screw region 12 includes a retention thread 18 that extends substantially through its length. One end of retention thread 18 is very near tip 22 thus aiding in the self-tapping characteristics of screw region 12. Particular embodiments may include more than one retention thread. In some embodiments, retention thread 18 may have a lead angle β between approximately 48° and 52° (for example 50°) and a trailing ~~angle γ~~ angle δ between approximately 78° and 82° (for example 80°), each such angle as measured from a center line of bone anchor 10. In some embodiments, both the lead and trail angles and the pitch of retention thread 18 may change across the length of screw region 12.